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Viewing cable 08STATE105491, DEMARCHE: LAX HONDURAN CONTROLS ON U.S.-SUPPLIED

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08STATE105491**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08STATE105491	2008-10-02 17:57	2011-08-30 01:44	SECRET//NOFORN	Secretary of State

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/04/21/112616/drug-gangs-help-themselves-to.html>

P 021757Z OCT 08
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 105491

SIPDIS
NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/2018
TAGS: [MASS](#) [MCAP](#) [PARM](#) [HO](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: LAX HONDURAN CONTROLS ON U.S.-SUPPLIED
WEAPONS

Classified By: Classified by: Christopher W. Webster, Director WHA/CEN
Reason(s) 1.4 (a), (b), (c), and (d).

1. (U) Action request contained in paras 2 and 3.

2. (S/NF) Summary: The USG has become aware that light anti-tank weapons (LAWs) and grenades supplied to Honduras under the Foreign Military Sales program were recovered in Mexico and Colombia. The Department's Bureau of Political Military Affairs is preparing a congressional notification (required by Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act) regarding the possible unauthorized diversion, misuse or failure to secure such U.S.-origin defense articles or defense services by the Government

of Honduras (GOH). The Embassy is requested to raise this issue with appropriate GOH officials to ensure that GOH officials understand their legal end-use obligations with respect to control of U.S.-origin defense articles, that USG end-use monitoring is being completed, and that failure to fulfill their obligations may jeopardize certain aspects of future bilateral security cooperation.

OBJECTIVES

13. (SBU) Department requests Embassy pursue the following objectives with appropriate GOH Ministries of Defense (MOD) and Foreign Affairs (MFA) officials

- To remind GOH that it has retransfer, end-use and security obligations with respect to defense articles or defense services sold or granted by the U.S.

- To ensure that the GOH realizes the importance of ensuring strict controls over equipment, especially weapons, supplied under U.S. military assistance programs to prevent unauthorized transfers.

- To gain GOH commitment to accept responsibility for investigating unauthorized diversions and punish appropriately those held responsible.

- To obtain GOH action to strengthen controls on import/export of weapons and other military equipment.

- Reiterate U.S. support for on-going weapons destruction programs or new requests for future programs. Express U.S. willingness to provide physical security and/or stockpile management assistance to the GOH if requested.

BACKGROUND

14. (S/NF) On July 9, 2008, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) published a report entitled "Honduras: Military Weapons Fuel Black Arms Market". According to the DIA report, three light anti-tank weapons (LAWs) were recovered in Mexico City in January 2008, and one was recovered in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in April 2008. Six more LAWs were recovered on San Andres Island, Colombia in March 2008. Factory markings analysis of lot and serial numbers undertaken by DIA's Military Materiel Identification Division (CHUCKWAGON)/MIO-5 indicates that these LAWs were part of a shipment of fifty sent to the Honduran 2nd Infantry Battalion's TESON training element. The LAWs were originally transferred to Honduras in 1992 as part of a U.S. Foreign Military Sales program.

(C/HND) In April 2008, an investigation undertaken by the Honduran military found that the 2nd Infantry Battalion's TESON training element could not account for 26 of these fifty LAWs.

(S/NF) In addition, at least two U.S.-produced M433 40-mm grenades have been recovered in Colombia and Mexico, according to credible sources with direct access cited in the DIA report. The only foreign military sale of M433 40-mm grenades was to Honduras in 1985.

15. (U) For more information on this issue please contact WHA/CEN: Rebecca M. Valerin (202-647-3482)

RICE